

1. What signs tell the reader, early in the story, that the events are going to be funny rather than tragic?

2. From the way Sam and Bill talk and write, what can be said about them?

3. What a sentence says and what it really means can be different. This is irony. Explain the irony from the signature of the ransom note - "Two Desperate Men".

4. Explain the irony in the title of the story.

Rewrite these sentences in the order they occur in the story.

1. Boy attacks kidnapper with rock and sling; destroys his morale.
2. Boy's father sends reply to ransom letter.
3. Two men kidnap boy.
4. Kidnapper tries to chase boy home but fails.
5. Boy tries to scalp kidnapper.
6. Kidnappers pay father to hold boy while they escape.
7. Kidnappers send ransom letter.
